



## Fact Sheet: **Co-Occurring Discorders**



### **BACKGROUND**

The Governor's Budget Act of 1995-96 mandated the Departments of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) and Mental Health (DMH) to actively seek methods to eliminate barriers between the mental health and substance abuse treatment systems at both the state and local levels.

ADP and DMH established the State Dual Diagnosis Task Force which began convening in 1996. Mental health and county alcohol and drug program administrators, consumers, family representatives, and state staff from both departments comprised this group. In 1997, the Task Force developed a Request for Proposal to fund projects to demonstrate effective treatment of persons with co-occurring disorders of mental health and substance use.

Four projects were selected in the counties of Contra Costa, Merced, San Diego, and Santa Cruz. ADP and DMH funded these projects for four years with federal dollars, and the projects will continue in 2002 with local funding. A copy of the final evaluation report is completed and includes both strengths and areas for improvement in the demonstration projects. To obtain a copy of this report, please contact ADP's Resource Center at 1-800-879-2772, or download the report from ADP's website at [www.adp.ca.gov](http://www.adp.ca.gov).

### **NEW WORKGROUP ESTABLISHED**

The Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup will address the policy and practice needs of

those who treat persons with co-occurring disorders.

The Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup is comprised of six members representing each respective State department and consultants who are nationally recognized for their expertise in co-occurring disorders assessment and treatment. Marvin Southard, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and Vivian Brown, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Prototypes, a residential treatment program for women, serve as co-chairpersons.

In order to establish appropriate relationships and improve collaboration between systems designed to address the needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders, the homeless, and those in Proposition 36 programs, the directors of ADP and DMH charged the Workgroup to:

- Identify best/promising practices from the pilot project and other sources for broader dissemination;
- Identify funding alternatives for extending best practices;
- Propose partnerships to be developed in order to promote coordinated services at the local level; and
- Propose training and technical assistance mechanisms to support local community capacity building.

This workgroup will meet monthly until June 2003.